**Conversion of Coal to Liquid**

1586. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether India is negotiating with a South African company having technology for converting coal to liquid (CTL), for setting up units in India for converting coal to petroleum products; and

_(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the stage of the negotiations likely annual production of petroleum products, the places where production units are proposed to be set up and the price to be paid by India for the products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) A delegation from M/s. SASOL, a South African company with expertise in conversion of coal to liquid, had visited India in early 2006 and had preliminary discussions with Coal India Limited for setting up a Coal Gasification-cum Liquefaction Plant. Coal india Limited has shown its interest. Response from SASOL is awaited.

**Retail Cutlets in Andhra Pradesh**

1587. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of retail outlets of Pubiic Sector Companies in Andhra Pradesh as on date, company-wise;

(b) the number out of them allotted to SCs/STs/OBCs, category-wise company-wise;

(c) whether the reserved quota for above said categories has been completed;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken to ensure completion of reserved quota by the oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As on 30.6.2006, there were 2,479 retail outlet (RO) dealerships of public sector oil